

Message Text

PAGE 01 BANGKO 13498 291130Z

13-S
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 082809

P R 291015Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6120
INFO CINCPAC
USSAG

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13498

EXDIS

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, TH
SUBJECT: REDEPLOYMENT OF US AIRCRAFT FROM THAILAND

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY-DESIGNATE

1. IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI, ASA SARASIN AND TWO OTHER FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES, I CONVEYED INFORMATION CONTAINED STATE 171146 (SEE ALSO SEPTEL) SO THAT PRIME MINISTER COULD BE BRIEFED IN PREPARATION FOR HIS PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY. THIS LED INTO AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THE FORCE REDUCTION PROGRAM AND HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED BY US IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD.

2. IT WAS CLEAR THAT ON THAI SIDE THERE CONTINUES TO BE DESIRE TO HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE TO SAY ABOUT FURTHER WITHDRAWALS ON SEPTEMBER 7. I DISCOURAGED THAIS EXPECTATIONS ON THIS SCORE, AND WE TALKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SATISFYING PRESS CURIOSITY FOLLOWING THAT MEETING BY REFERENCE TO THE PARTICIPANTS WORKING ON ISSUES ARISING FROM FORCE REDUCTIONS AND BASE EVACUATIONS, INCLUDING SEEKING MEANS OF ALLEVIATING ANY LOCAL LABOR MALADJUSTMENTS, ETC. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TALK IN THIS VEIN, BUT AS STATED EARLIER MESSAGES, I ANTICIPATE THAI PRESSURE FOR REFERENCE FOLLOWING SEPT 7 MEETING AT LEAST TO THE SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 13498 291130Z

MAPPING OUT OF A PROGRAM OF FURTHER GRADUAL REDUCTIONS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

3. WE DID AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE WISE, FOLLOWING SEPT

7, TO LET SOME TIME GO BY BEFORE SUBSEQUENT MEETING AND ALSO TRY TO DISCOURAGE EXPECTATIONS ON THE PART OF THE PRESS FOR FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENTS EACH TIME MEETING TOOK PLACE. NEVERTHELESS, THE THAIS SEVERAL TIMES STATED THAT THEY HOPED VERY MUCH THAT AFTER SEVERAL MORE WEEKS HAD GONE BY, I.E., TOWARD END OF SEPT, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ANNOUNCE ANOTHER SPECIFIC REDUCTION. ASA ALSO REFERRED TO APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF REDUCTIONS REQUIRED TO BRING LEVEL DOWN TO THAT OF EARLY 1972; I REPLIED IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO KNOW NOW WHEN THAT LEVEL COULD BE REACHED.

4. REFERENCE WAS MADE TO THREE POINTS RAISED AT LAST MEETING, WITH SPECIFIC MENTION OF THAI SECURITY GUARDS. (PRESUMABLY OTHER ISSUES IN THAI MIND WERE EARLY REDUCTION IN STRATEGIC B-52 AIRCRAFT AND DONATION OF EXCESS AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT). I TOOK THIS OCCASION TO EXPRESS AGAIN MY SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT ANY MARINE OR USAF UNIT WOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE BEHIND ANY OF ITS INTEGRAL EQUIPMENT, RECALLING MARSHAL DAWEE'S REQUEST FOR OV-10'S. I SAID WE RECOGNIZED THAIS HAD LEGITIMATE NEED FOR OV-10 AIRCRAFT AND THAT WE WERE AWARE OF THEIR HAVING PURCHASED TWO SQUADRONS ALREADY. MOREOVER, WE WERE PREPARED TO CONSIDER INCLUSION OF OV-10'S IN MAP PROGRAM AND ALSO TO EXPLORE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY WAY IN WHICH WE MIGHT HELP SECURE THEM BUT THAT THEY SHOULD NOT COUNT ON ANY UNITS LEAVING AIRCRAFT OR OTHER INTEGRAL EQUIPMENT BEHIND. CHARTCHAI REFERRED TO KOREAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE EXPERIENCES, WHERE HE IS PERSUADED THAT THE SAME RESTRICTIONS DID NOT APPLY AND US LEFT LARGE AMOUNTS OF EQUIPMENT BEHIND FOR LOCAL FORCES; HE HOPES THAT WE CAN HELP THE THAIS ON THIS.

5. ASA ALSO MENTIONED PREOCCUPATION OF THAI PUBLIC WITH B-52'S AND ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD NOT SOON BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE WITHDRAWAL OF SOME OF THOSE AIRCRAFT. I SAID I COULD NOT AT THE PRESENT TIME TELL HIM WHEN THIS
SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 13498 291130Z

WOULD BE POSSIBLE; HOWEVER, I REFERRED TO THE CONTEMPLATED WITHDRAWAL OF SOME KC-135'S AND RECOMMENDED THAT THIS BE USED TO MEET WHATEVER MAY BE THE CURRENT PRESSURES ON THIS POINT.

6. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 6 STATE 171146, I EMPHASIZED THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE NOT MOVE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE HANOI THE WRONG SIGNAL. WE MUST NOT WEAKEN THE DETERRENT TO HANOI'S GROSSLY VIOLATING INDO-CHINA PEACE AGREEMENTS WHICH OUR STRONG POSITION HERE TODAY REPRESENTS. I POINTED OUT THAT WE AND THE RTG HAVE NOW GIVEN THE THAI PEOPLE EVIDENCE OF OUR INTENTION TO BEGIN A GRADUAL REDUCTION AND THAT THE

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL UNIT MOVEMENTS FROM THE 3,550 TOTAL OVER THE WEEKS AHEAD WILL KEEP THIS BEFORE THE PUBLIC. WITH THIS IN MIND IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT WE COULD AFFORD TO POSTPONE FOR SOME TIME FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SPECIFIC REDUCTIONS. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO US, AND I WAS SURE TO THE THAIS AS WELL, TO MAINTAIN THE DETERRENT WHICH MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE COULD BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE THREATS WHICH THAILAND ITSELF HAS FELT SO ACUTELY FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESENCE AND ACTIONS IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AS WELL AS SOUTH VIETNAM. FINALLY, I EMPHASIZED TO CHARTCHAI THAT I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED, AND I KNEW THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF DIRECT CONCERN TO PRESIDENT NIXON, TO CONVEY TO PRIME MINISTER THANOM OUR STRONG VIEW THAT WE MUST AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL.

7. COMMENT: I BELIEVE WE AND THE THAIS ARE CONTINUING TO COME CLOSER TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE, BUT MORE THAN LIKELY NEW PRESSURES WILL BE GENERATED WITH STRONG ASSISTS FROM THE PRESS AND OTHER SOURCES. THEREFORE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD GO INTO THE SEPT 7 MEETING WITH SOME FORTHCOMING THINGS TO SAY AS OUTLINED IN BANGKOK 13457 (PARAS 4F AND 5) TO BE USED AS AND IF WE FEEL WE NEED THEM.
UNGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BANGKO13498
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750008-1568
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqceftk.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <27-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REDEPLOYMENT OF US AIRCRAFT FROM THAILAND
TAGS: MARR, TH, US
To: STATE INFO CINCPAC
USSAG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005